

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
City Hall – Meeting Room 1-1
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT

ATTENDEES: Mark Dickau, Susan Tyler and Steve Seymour

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas W. Conlin, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Noelle Bates, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The Ordinance Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Dickau. All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. December 2, 2025

Councilwoman Tyler made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025, seconded by Chairman Seymour. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Old Business

a. Draft of modifications to Sec. 4.8 Roosters - Penalty

No action taken as the Zoning Enforcement Officer was not in attendance.

b. Section 17. Peddlers and Solicitors – general discussion

Chief Mark Morello addressed the committee and stated that the Police Department has a system in place for solicitors and peddlers for compliance. It includes background checks, finger printing and supplying badges. He stated that West Haven has a good ordinance on this section. Councilwoman Tyler asked if there could be a time limit on how often solicitors or peddlers visit a house. Chief Morello stated he could limit it to whatever the committee wanted. He suggested a timeframe of 6 months.

c. Proposed New section – City Council referral, Public Act 18-167 property tax exemptions for military service-connected disabilities

Thomas DeNoto, Assessor stated that there are 78 veterans that qualify for the exemption. The city has 11 million in assessments and this would reduce the assessments by \$370,000 which wouldn't overwhelm the budgetary process.

Councilwoman Tyler made a motion to refer this matter to the City Council, seconded by Councilman Seymour. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

5. New Business

a. Transportation Commission – section 18-167, et. seq.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu addressed the Committee stating that members of this commission are asking her what their role is on the committee. This Commission is split between Public Works and the Police Department and was established for bus routes. The Connecticut DOT and Connecticut Rails can handle all this now. The meetings were moved from monthly to quarterly and have been cancelled all together because they have no agenda items.

Councilwoman Tyler made a motion to set a Public Hearing for February 4 at 4:50p.m., seconded by Councilman Seymour. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

6. Additional Public Participation

None.

7. Committee Member Comments

Councilwoman Tyler stated that the Archdiocese reached out to her to make sure that single family housing would not be prohibited for use as traditional housing. The Mayor stated that the Property Maintenance Code allowed a certain amount of traditional housing such as Sober Housing.

Cheryl Thibeault, on Zoom, asked the Committee about Section 7-148, Vape Shops. She stated that she brought it up when she was on the Committee and would like to see the discussion continue.

Attorney Conlin stated that Vape Shops fall under police powers. He stated that every vape shop is in a zoning location that are allowed and vaping is legal. He thinks this matter should be in Zoning. The City Council voted 7-0 to refer it to Zoning previously and the Zoning Commission did nothing with it. The Zoning Commission could set regulations that it should be 3,000 feet from a house of worship or 3,000 feet from any school, for example. He states that he has found 10 cities in Connecticut that have adopted zoning regulations pertaining to vape shops.

Councilwoman Tyler made a motion to refer this matter to the City Council, seconded by Councilman Seymour. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Chairman Dickau brought up the noise issue with Reworld and found a statute to make into an ordinance. He has been getting complaints from constituents. He stated that he heard the noise on the following streets: Sunnydale, Trella, Redstone Hill Road and Blakeslee Road.

Chairman Dickau also asked if we can ask DEEP to do a surprise check on Reworld. He said people were telling him that when testing by DEEP is going on, the noise stops. But, once the testing is done, the noise starts back up again.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that when we go to the State level, we run into dead ends with all the departments and DEEP just refers you back to your local health department.

8. Adjournment

Councilman Seymour made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Tyler. All present voted in favor – Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary